

REMARKS

Claims 21-24, 34-43, 64-67, and 77-119 are pending and under consideration. Claims 21, 34, 40, 64, 77, 83, 99, 100, 116, and 118 are independent claims. Claims 1-20, 25-33, 44-63, and 68-76 have been cancelled, and Claims 87-119 have been added, in response to Examiner rejections and objections. Claim 21 has been amended to correct a minor error. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are hereby respectfully requested.

Summary

Applicants thank the Examiner for her careful consideration of this application. The Examiner has allowed Claims 21-24, 34-43, 64-67, and 77-86, and has indicated that Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 32, 51, 52, 54, 55, 58-60, 62, 63, and 75 are allowable if rewritten. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 25-31, 33, 44-50, 53, 56, 57, 61, 68-74 and 76 based upon certain references. In response, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-20, 25-33, 44-63, and 68-76, and presented new Claims 87-119. Claims 87-98 and 101-115 are dependent on various claims already allowed. Claims 99, 100, 116, and 118 correspond to Claims 5, 6, 51, and 52, respectively, rewritten in independent form to include the limitations contained in the corresponding base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 117 and 119 are dependent on Claims 116 and 118, respectively. Applicants therefore believe that pending claims 21-24, 34-43, 64-67, and 77-119 are in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 USC §§ 102 and 103

Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 25-31, 33, 44-50, 53, 56, 57, 61, 68-74 and 76 variously under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Hara (JP 62-269907), Tien (US 3948583), or Westwood (US 4969712), or under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Hara, Tien, or Westwood, alone or in various combinations. Examiner has objected to Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 32, 51, 52, 54, 55, 58-60, 62, 63, and 75 as dependent on a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections and objections are overcome, since Claims 1-20, 25-33, 44-63, and 68-76 have been cancelled without prejudice, and since it is believed that new Claims 87-119 patentably distinguish over Hara, Tien, and Westwood. No admission of unpatentability is implied by cancellation of Claims 1-20, 25-33, 44-63, and 68-76, nor should such an admission be inferred. In particular:

Claims 87-90 are dependent on allowed Claim 21.

Claims 91-94 are dependent on allowed Claim 34.

Claims 95-98 are dependent on allowed Claim 40.

Claim 99 is equivalent to Claim 5 rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of base Claim 1 and intervening Claims 2 and 4.

Claim 100 is equivalent to Claim 6 rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of base Claim 1 and intervening Claims 2 and 4.

Claims 101-105 are dependent on allowed Claim 64.

Claims 106-110 are dependent on allowed Claim 77.

Claims 111-115 are dependent on allowed Claim 83.

Claim 116 is equivalent to Claim 51 rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of base Claim 44 and intervening Claim 49. Claim 117 is dependent on Claim 116.

Claim 118 is equivalent to Claim 52 rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of base Claim 44 and intervening Claim 49. Claim 119 is dependent on Claim 118.

In the amended claims, the conjunction "or" is to be construed inclusively (e.g., "a dog or a cat" would be interpreted as "a dog, or a cat, or both"; Bryan A. Garner, Elements of Legal Style p. 103, 2nd ed. 2002).

Other Claim Amendment

Claim 21 has been amended to correct a minor error. This is not a narrowing amendment, nor is it made for reasons related to patentability.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 21-24, 34-43, 64-67, and 77-119 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested. Allowance of Claims 21-24, 34-43, 64-67, and 77-119 at an early date is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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